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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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May 4, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *JTM*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – MOORE’S
COTTAGE GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Moore’s Cottage Group Home (Group Home or Agency). The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Moore’s Cottage Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Moore’s Cottage Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County Probation children.

Moore’s Cottage Group Home is located in the First District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency’s Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service”

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to paint the rear exterior of the home; repair the living room floor; clean the shower grout; replace the broken shower door; replace the children's mattresses; and include the treatment team in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:gfw

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Steven Smith, Executive Director, Moore's Cottage
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Moore's Cottage Group Home
1349 Casa Vista Drive
Pomona, California 91768
Phone: (909) 620-4800
License Number: 197804238
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Moore's Cottage Group Home is located in a residential community. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped. However, the paint is peeling and chipped on the rear exterior of the house.

Overall, the common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, in the living room, there are large stained areas on the hardwood floor. In the bathroom, the shower door is broken, and the tile grout is dirty.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, the mattresses are worn and need to be replaced.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Moore's Cottage management:

- a. Paint the rear exterior of the house.
- b. Clean or refinish the living room floor.
- c. Repair or replace the shower door, and clean the tile grout in the bathroom.
- d. Replace the children's mattresses.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team and the child are not included in the development or implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). Needs and Services Plans are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

- 2. Moore's Cottage management include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff

supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Moore's Cottage Group Home
1349 Casa vista Dr.
Pomona, California. 91768
Phone: (909) 620-4800
License Number: 197804238**

Rate Classification Level (9)

I. Facility and Environment

Recommendations

1. Moore's Cottage Management.

- a. Paint the rear exterior of the house.**
- b. Repair the living room floor.**

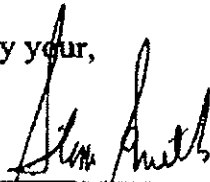
The property owner, has indicated that the above mentioned deficiencies a., and b. will be completed by February 11th, 2006

- c. Replace the shower door and clean the tile grout.**
The shower door, and grout have been repaired.

- d. Replace the children's mattresses.**
The mattresses were replaced on 1/16/2006

This agency's plan is to ensure that the bed mattresses are checked every 6 Month's for excessive ware (sagging in the middle), and to ensure that the Shower door is properly cleaned during the Saturday deep clean.

Respectfully your,



Steven Smith Administrator

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Rate Classification: Level (9)

II. Program Services

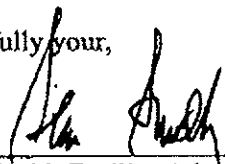
Recommendation

- 2. Moore's Cottage management to provide a treatment team to develop and implement the NSPs, with input from the child.**

Moore's Cottage Group Home will develop a NSPs treatment team consisting Probation Officer, and or Social Wk., Facility Therapist, Facility Adm., Group Home Staff, and input from the child.

Enclosed is a request form being sent to the Probation officer/Social worker to Participate in the development of the Needs and Service Plan.

Respectfully your,



Steven Smith Facility Adm.